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October 15, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Ms. Diane Salkie
ATTN: Lower Passaic River Remedial Project Manager
Emergency and Remedial Response Division
U.S. EPA, Region 2
290 Broadway, 19th Floor
New York, New York 10007

**Re: Monthly Progress Report No. 149 – September 2019
Lower Passaic River Study Area (LPRSA) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
(RI/FS)
CERCLA Docket No. 02-2007-2009**

Dear Ms. Salkie:

de maximis, inc. is submitting this Monthly Progress Report for the above-captioned project on the behalf of the RI/FS Agreement Settling Parties (Cooperative Parties Group or CPG) pursuant to the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (Settlement Agreement or AOC). The Progress Report satisfies the reporting requirements of Paragraph 42 of said Settlement Agreement. The CPG has revised this Progress Report to address the Region's direction in its September 1, 2015 letter about Section (d).

(a) Actions which have been taken to comply with this Settlement Agreement during the previous month.

Meetings/Conference Calls

- On September 16, EPA Region 2 (Region 2), CPG, and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) held a meeting to discuss the Upper 9-Mile Interim Remedy (IR) Completion.

Correspondence

- On September 4, Region 2 approved the Current Conditions Small Volume Chemical Water Column Monitoring (SV CWCM) Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP).
- On September 4, Region 2 and CPG exchanged emails regarding coordination of Region 2 Biota Sampling oversight.
- On September 4, Region 2 and CPG exchanged emails regarding potential Hurricane Dorian impacts on shipments of the SV CWCM samples to North Carolina.
- On September 5, Region 2 requested backup information related to the development of unit costs in the 17-Mile Feasibility Study (FS) from CPG.

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- On September 5, Region 2 and CPG exchanged emails regarding conditional approval of the Current Conditions Biota Sampling QAPP.
- On September 5, Region 2 proposed September 16 to CPG as an alternative date for the next FS meeting.
- On September 5, CPG responded to Region 2 that the afternoon of September 16 would be acceptable for the next FS meeting.
- On September 5, Region 2 and CPG consultants exchanged emails regarding Biota Sampling oversight coordination.
- On September 5, CPG consultants provided comments on the calibration approach for the Lower Passaic River Study Area (LPRSA) Bioaccumulation Model provided by Region 2 consultants.
- On September 10, CPG provided Region 2 a proposed agenda for the September 16 scheduled FS meeting.
- On September 10, CPG provided Region 2 the September 9 Biota catch summary.
- On September 10, Region 2 provided feedback to CPG on the daily catch summary format of September 9 activities.
- On September 11, Region 2 requested clarification from CPG on the revised Current Conditions Biota Sampling QAPP.
- On September 12, CPG provided Region 2 the September 10 Biota catch summary.
- On September 12, CPG provided Region 2 the September 11 Biota catch summary.
- On September 12, CPG provided Region 2 the decision tree diagram for the Upper 9-Mile IR discussed during an August 21 teleconference.
- On September 13, Region 2 approved the revised Current Conditions Biota Sampling QAPP.
- On September 13, CPG provided Region 2 the September 12 Biota catch summary.
- On September 13, Region 2 provided a response to CPG's September 3, 2019 correspondence requesting a meeting with Region 2, CPG and NJDEP to discuss the post-remedy sampling approach and adaptive management presentation.
- On September 13, Region 2 and CPG consultants exchanged emails regarding the SV CWCM and Physical Water Column Monitoring (PWCM) field schedules.
- On September 16, CPG provided Region 2 the September 13 Biota catch summary.
- On September 16, CPG provided Region 2 the September 14 Biota catch summary.
- On September 16, CPG delivered the August Monthly Progress Report to Region 2.
- On September 17, CPG provided Region 2 the September 16 Biota catch summary.
- On September 17, CPG provided Region 2 the Week 1 Biota catch summary.
- On September 17, CPG provided Region 2 the September 17 Biota catch summary.
- On September 18, Region 2 and CPG exchanged emails regarding the detail provided in the daily Biota catch summaries.
- On September 19, CPG provided Region 2 the September 19 Biota catch summary.
- On September 19, Region 2 requested CPG provide the GIS shapefiles with side scan sonar results presented in "Attachment 7, SSS Mosaic and Surface Sediment

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Interpretation to OPERATIONS REPORT (OSI REPORT #19ES005) HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY AND SEDIMENT SAMPLING, LOWER PASSAIC RIVER, NEW JERSEY".

- On September 19, CPG uploaded the revised Final Current Conditions Biota Sampling QAPP to the EPA SharePoint site.
- On September 20, CPG indicated to Region 2 that the requested GIS shapefiles would be uploaded the week of September 23.
- On September 21, CPG provided Region 2 the September 20 Biota catch summary.
- On September 21, CPG provided Region 2 the September 21 Biota catch summary.
- On September 23, Region 2 requested CPG have the Supplemental Sampling Program (SSP) and SSP2 data reports marked as final and uploaded to the EPA SharePoint site.
- On September 23, Region 2 requested a spreadsheet summarizing the catch to date for the Biota Sampling program and notified CPG of a Region 2 Biota program field observation planned for September 25.
- On September 23, CPG provided a cumulative summary of Biota catch through September 21 (weeks 1 and 2) to Region 2.
- On September 24, CPG provided Region 2 a summary table of PWCM and SV CWCM sampling events conducted to date in 2019.
- On September 24, CPG uploaded the Final SSP and SSP2 17-Mile RI Data Reports to the EPA SharePoint site.
- On September 25, CPG provided Region 2 the September 24 Biota catch summary.
- On September 25, CPG provided Region 2 the draft Appendix D (Adaptive Management Plan) to the Upper 9-Mile IR FS.
- On September 25, CPG and Region 2 exchanged emails regarding potentially rescheduling FS Meeting #22 from October 8 to October 10.
- On September 26, CPG provided Region 2 the September 25 Biota catch summary.
- On September 26, CPG provided Region 2 the September 26 Biota catch summary.
- On September 27, CPG uploaded the requested GIS shapefiles to the EPA SharePoint site.
- On September 27, CPG provided Region 2 the September 27 Biota catch summary.
- On September 30, CPG provided Region 2 the final cumulative Biota catch summary.
- On September 30, Region 2 notified CPG that FS Meeting #22 scheduled for October 8 was postponed.

Work

- CPG continued work on supplemental modeling projections for the Upper 9-Mile IR FS.
- CPG completed revision of the Current Conditions Biota Sampling QAPP.
- CPG continued field work for the PWCM component of Current Conditions Sampling.
- CPG continued field work for the SV CWCM component of Current Conditions Sampling.
- CPG initiated validation of PWCM and SV CWCM data.
- CPG conducted and completed the Biota Sampling component of Current Conditions Sampling.

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- CPG continued work on revision and calibration of the Bioaccumulation Model.

(b) Results of Sampling and Tests

- None.

(c) Work planned for the next two months with schedules relating to the overall project schedule for RI/FS completion

- CPG will continue calibration of the Bioaccumulation Model.
- CPG will continue participation in meetings and conference calls with Region 2 and NJDEP regarding the outstanding Appendix to the Upper 9-Mile IR FS.
- CPG will respond to comments on the Upper 9-Mile FS .
- CPG will prepare for participation at the November CSTAG/NRRB Meeting.
- CPG will continue the PWCM and SV CWCM field work.
- CPG will develop a compositing plan for the Biota Sampling program.
- CPG will continue validation of PWCM and SV CWCM data.
- CPG will continue supplemental modeling projections for the Upper 9-Mile IR FS.
- CPG will complete work on Newark Bay Model documentation.

(d) Problems encountered and anticipated problems, actual or anticipated delays, and solutions developed and implemented to address actual or anticipated problems or delays.

- None

If you have any questions, please contact Rob Law or me at (908) 735-9315.

Very truly yours,

de maximis, inc.


Willard Potter
CPG Project Coordinator

cc: Frances Zizila, EPA Region 2 Office of Regional Counsel
William Hyatt, CPG Coordinating Counsel
Lisa Baron, USACE
Clay Stern, USFWS
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